

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05

CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 SAM-01 /074 W

----- 115778

R 210202Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9191

E.O. 11652: ADS DECLASSIFY MAY 30, 1975

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN CHIANG MAI

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO UDORN SONGKHLA
MAY 20 FM CHIANG MAI RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

CHIANG MAI 117

E.O. 11652: ADS DECLASSIFY MAY 30, 1975

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN CHIANG MAI

1. CHIANG MAI'S NEWEST FESTIVAL, "HATE AMERICA WEEK,"
APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED NIGHT OF MAY 19 WITH THREE-HOUR RALLY
AT TAPAE GATE ATTENDED BY ABOUT ONE HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE,
MOSTLY MALE DROPOUTS.

2. GROUP DID NOT MOVE ON TO CONSULATE AS ON PREVIOUS
EVENING BUT CONTENTED ITSELF WITH SELF-CONGRATULATIONS ON
"MINOR VICTORY" OF AMERICAN APOLOGY WHILE WARNING THAT
PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS ENDING U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN
THAILAND. AMONG CHARGES MADE DURING COURSE OF EVENING
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WERE (A) U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING FIVE THOUSAND VANG

PAO TROOPS INTO THAILAND AND (B) U.S. BEHIND NATIONAL AROUND THE WORLD AND PEACE OF LOVE (NAWAPOL) GROUP WHICH FORMED CHIANG MAI CHAPTER LAST WEEK. (UNDERSTAND RIGHT WING NAWAPOL GROUP HAS AVOWED AIM OF PROTECTING KING, NATION, AND RELIGION BY FIGHTING ACTIVISTS.)

3. RALLY WAS ADDRESSED BY SIX STUDENT SPEAKERS, INCLUDING ONE GIRL. WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION ALL SPOKE CENTRAL, NOT NORTHERN, DIALECT. (CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF TWO POSTERS AFFIXED TO CONSULATE WALL LAST FRIDAY INDICATES THEY WERE CRUDELY WRITTEN ON BACK OF PRINTED POSTERS PREPARED BY "ARTISTS FRONT OF THAILAND" FOR MAY DAY RALLY AT BANGKOK'S THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY.) DURING LAST NIGHT'S RALLY LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED INDICATING SPONSORS WERE SIXTEEN LOCAL STUDENT GROUPS. CLIMAX OF EVENING WAS BURNING EFFIGY PRESIDENT FORD. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING SPEAKERS INDICATED THERE WOULD BE MORE GATHERINGS BUT NOT IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE APPARENTLY WEATHERED STORM FOR MOMENT BUT SOME PERMANENT DAMAGE TO OUR POSITION IN NORTH MAY RESULT FROM MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT AND WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IT TOUCHED OFF HERE. TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORSE WITH CHIANG MAI BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY WHICH WILL BE HOTLY CONTESTED BY SPT SYGEN BOONSANONG BOONYOTHAYAN, INTER ALIA. WHEREAS U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WAS NOT ISSUE IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN JANUARY IT VERY WELL MAY BE IN JUNE BY-ELECTION. HARBIN WHITEHOUSE

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